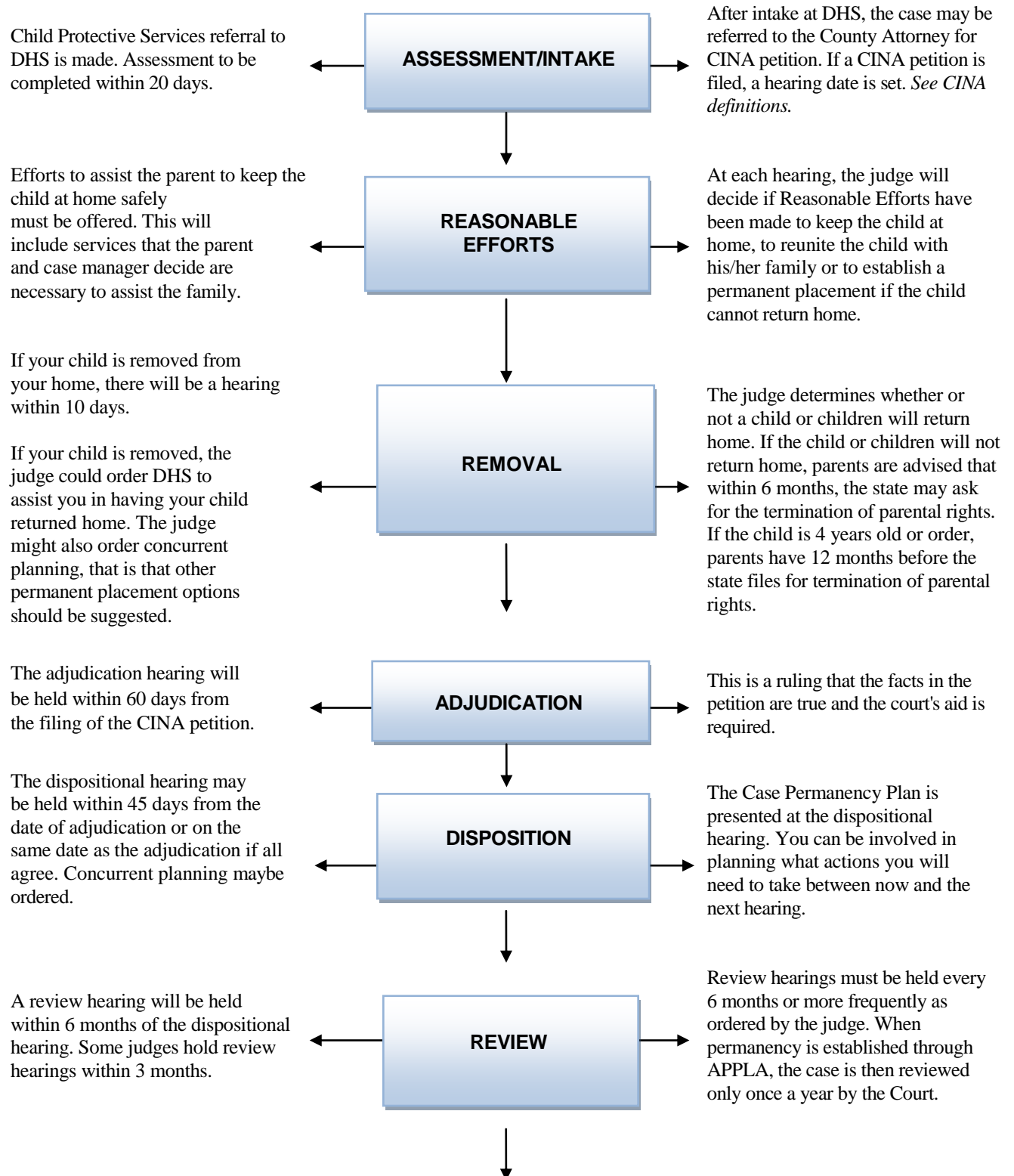


Juvenile Court Hearings

The list below is a quick reference to the various hearings held in Juvenile Court for CINA proceedings.

1. **Removal:** This hearing must be held within 10 days after a child is removed from his/her home. A child can initially be removed via an Ex-parte Temporary Removal Order due to imminent risk of harm if statements of Reasonable Efforts have been provided to the Judge.
2. **Adjudication:** A fact-finding hearing to determine if the child is a “Child in Need of Assistance” (CINA). The evidence regarding the allegations outlined in the CINA Petition is presented. If it is determined he/she is appropriate for CINA, then he/she will remain in the court system.
3. **Dispositional:** A hearing that deals with placement and services. Where should the child reside for the time being? (Home, extended relatives, foster care, residential treatment, etc.) What services are necessary to address the issues identified?
4. **Reviews:** These hearings held every 3 – 6 months to review progress, add/delete services, or if appropriate, change placement status. A child cannot change from placements involving a higher level of care at this hearing. A child can go to a lower level of care at a review hearing if everyone agrees. However, a hearing is not necessary to move a child to a lower level of care if everyone agrees. (Moving from one foster home to another foster home is not “changing placements”.)
5. **Permanency:** This hearing must be held after the child has been involved with the court for one year so that a plan or outline for the future can be drawn up.
6. **Modification:** Hearing done when a court ordered change is required. (Example: move the child from foster care to residential care or shelter care, which is an entirely different level of care/structure.) This hearing must be requested.
7. **Dismissal:** Action by the judge that removes a given case from the court system.
8. **Termination of Parental Rights:** A hearing freeing the child from all custody and control by a parent or parents so that the child can be adopted by others.

TIME FRAME FOR CINA HEARINGS



This hearing occurs if a child is living outside of the parents' home. The hearing may be held within 6 months from the time the child has been out of the home if the child is under 4 years old or 12 months for all children who are placed out of the home.

PERMANENCY

Options for permanency are: return home, adoption, guardianship, custody by relative or other suitable caretaker, or other planned permanent living arrangement.

This petition may be filed after 6 months for the child who is under 4 or after 12 months if the child is 4 or older. If the child has been out of the home for 15 of the last 22 months, a termination of parental rights hearing **MUST** be held.

TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

This hearing is held to determine if the parental rights to the child should be ended. Termination means that the parent can no longer make decisions or have any future rights regarding their child at all.

If an appeal is going to be filed, it must be filed within 15 days of the date on the judge's final order.

APPEAL

Parties who may file an appeal include: DHS, child, parents or others. The Juvenile Court order is followed during an appeal process.

The DHS case manager reports to the court on the permanent placement within 45 days.

ADOPTION

A post-termination review hearing is held every 6 months thereafter until the adoption is finalized.

OTHER POSSIBLE HEARINGS

Modification Hearing

This hearing can take place whenever there are major changes in the case situation that need court action.

Shelter Hearing

This hearing takes place whenever a child is placed in shelter care. A plan for alternative placement is reviewed.

Appeals

A party may appeal a final decision of Juvenile Court within 15 days of the final order.